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039 RAKUDAI KISHI NO EIYUUTAN

BY MISORA RIKU & SORAMICHI MEGUMU

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY

FALLEN ANGELS

ゴオオオ
ドドドド
THIS... IS TERRIBLE.

落第騎士の英雄譚
キャバルリィ
A TALE OF WORST ONE
原作 海空りく
Original by Riku Misora
漫画 空路恵
Illust by Megumu Soramichi
キャラクター原案 をん
Character Design by Won
©Riku Misora / SB Creative Corp.
CHAPTER 39: AKATSUKI ON STAGE
I want to see you, even if it's in a dream...
THE SERIES HAS EXCEEDED 1,700,000 SALES!
THE NEWEST TANKOUBON, VOLUME 9, IS ON SALE 6/13 (WED)!

OREKI-SENSEI...

AYATSUJI-SAN?!

IKKI!

NO GOOD... THERE'S NO RESPONSE HERE EITHER.

AYATSUJI-SAN!

PLEASE WAKE UP!

LADIES AND GENTLE-MENNN!

MEMBERS OF THE HAGUN ACADEMY COMBATANT TEAM, YOU'VE HAD A LONG TRIP!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
A CLOWN ...?!

YOU ARE BUNKYOKU ACADEMY'S REISEN HIRAGA, AREN'T YOU?

NO... ISN'T THAT...?

OH, YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

HEHEHE. WHAT AN HONOR, TO BE REMEMBERED BY RAIKIRI HERSELF.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS STAGE?

DID IT SURPRISE YOU?

ヒュ
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ドカ

IT WASN'T MINE.

IT WAS OURS.
OUR AKATSUKI ACADEMY.

Y—

YOU!

AKA-TSUKI... ACADEMY!?

THE ONE FROM KYOMON, DURING THE TRAINING CAMP...!

AHAHA,

TO THINK I'D SEE STELLA-SAN AND IKKI-SAN AGAIN SO SOON.

IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY.

EXCEPT FOR HAGUN, REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE SCHOOLS ARE LINING UP TO SHOW THEIR FACES?
KYOMON, ROKUZON, BUNKYOKU, BUKYOKU...
...
I'D LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN THIS FOR US,
BROTHER...!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE—

SILENCE.

DON'T SPEAK TO ME SO CASUALLY.

I'VE LONG CUT TIES WITH YOU LOT.

THE ONLY ONE HE SEES... IS ME.

WHY DID WE DO THIS?

WHAT EXACTLY IS AKATSUKI ACADEMY...? THE LITTLE BROTHER'S QUESTIONS ARE QUITE REASONABLE.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

HE'S FAR STRONGER THAN THE REST OF THEM!

SO LET'S ILLUMINATE YOU.

THE FESTIVAL STEERING COMMITTEE WILL SURELY NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE PARTICIPATION OF A NEWLY-ESTABLISHED ACADEMY THAT'S NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE LEAGUE.

GIVEN HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN APPEAR AT THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL,

IN A WAY THAT WOULD BE OBVIOUS TO ALL.

WE WOULD NEED TO DEMON-STRATE OUR ABILITY

TO GAIN ACKNOWLEDGMENT, WE COULD ENTER AN OTHERWISE MEANINGLESS FESTIVAL TO DECIDE JAPAN'S STRONGEST.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WOULD DESTROY HAGUN AS THIS DEMONSTRATION,

AND ENTER THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL AS THE SEVENTH MEMBER IN HAGUN'S PLACE?

I SEE.

Ding ding

AS EXPECTED OF RAIKIRI, YOU GRASP THE POINT QUICKLY.

……

SUCH AN OUTRAGE… DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THAT?

ドン

THE STEERING COMMITTEE ARE NO FOOLS EITHER.

THEY WOULD JUST BAN YOU FROM PARTICIPATING.

WE'LL DEFINITELY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SWORD-ART FESTIVAL.

HEH HEH... THAT'S NOT TRUE.

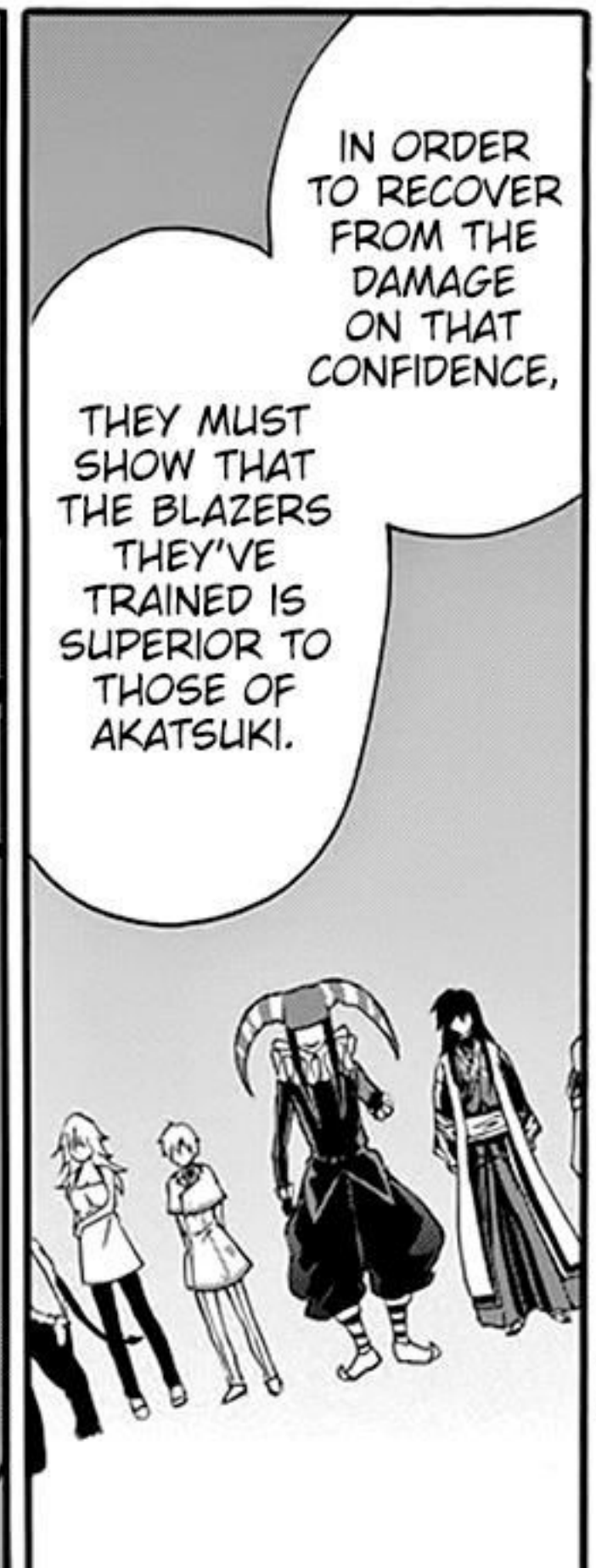
TO REFUSE OUR CHALLENGE WOULD BE THE SAME AS FLEEING.

AFTER ALL, WITH US DESTROYING A SCHOOL LIKE HAGUN ACADEMY DESPITE ALL ITS HISTORY...

THAT IS TO SAY, THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE LEAGUE ABOVE IT HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR AKATSUKI ACADEMY.

THE LEAGUE OF MAGE-KNIGHT NATIONS IS ENTRUSTED WITH TRAINING BLAZERS OF NATIONS WITHIN ITS INFLUENCE.

THE EXISTENCE OF A TRAINING AGENCY WHOSE POWER EXCEEDS ITS OWN IS A SITUATION IT CAN'T ALLOW.



IT'S ALSO A STAGE TO SHOW THE CITIZENS OF JAPAN

THAT THE LEAGUE CAN RAISE EXCELLENT KNIGHTS CONSISTENTLY.

THAT'S TRUE...

THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL ISN'T JUST A CELEBRATION FOR THE SAKE OF THE STUDENTS.

IF THAT FALLS APART...

THE LEAGUE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY SILENT.

ISN'T JUST FOR APPEASING THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT... IT EARNS CITIZEN APPROVAL FOR THE LEAGUE TO PURSUE SPECIAL INTERESTS.

AND DEMONSTRATING THIS BY TRAINING THE BLAZERS THAT PROTECT THE COUNTRY

BUT YOU'LL ALL FALL IN DEFEAT HERE

SO WE DO APOLOGIZE PROFUSELY,

AS OUR STEPPING STONE.

YOU'VE BEEN DOING STUPID THINGS AS YOU PLEASE.
DID YOU THINK WE'LL AGREE WITH THAT?
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE US DOWN, GO AHEAD AND TRY!

THEN WE WON'T HOLD BACK, HA HA HA!

YAMAGATA PREFECTURE
KYOMON ACADEMY TRAINING GROUNDS
NANGOU-SENSEI, THANK YOU GREATLY FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COME TO KYOMON.
HAHAHA, IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.

I'VE ALSO WANTED TO TRY FACING THAT BOY ONCE MYSELF.

NEVERTHELESS, QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE CHILD HE WAS.

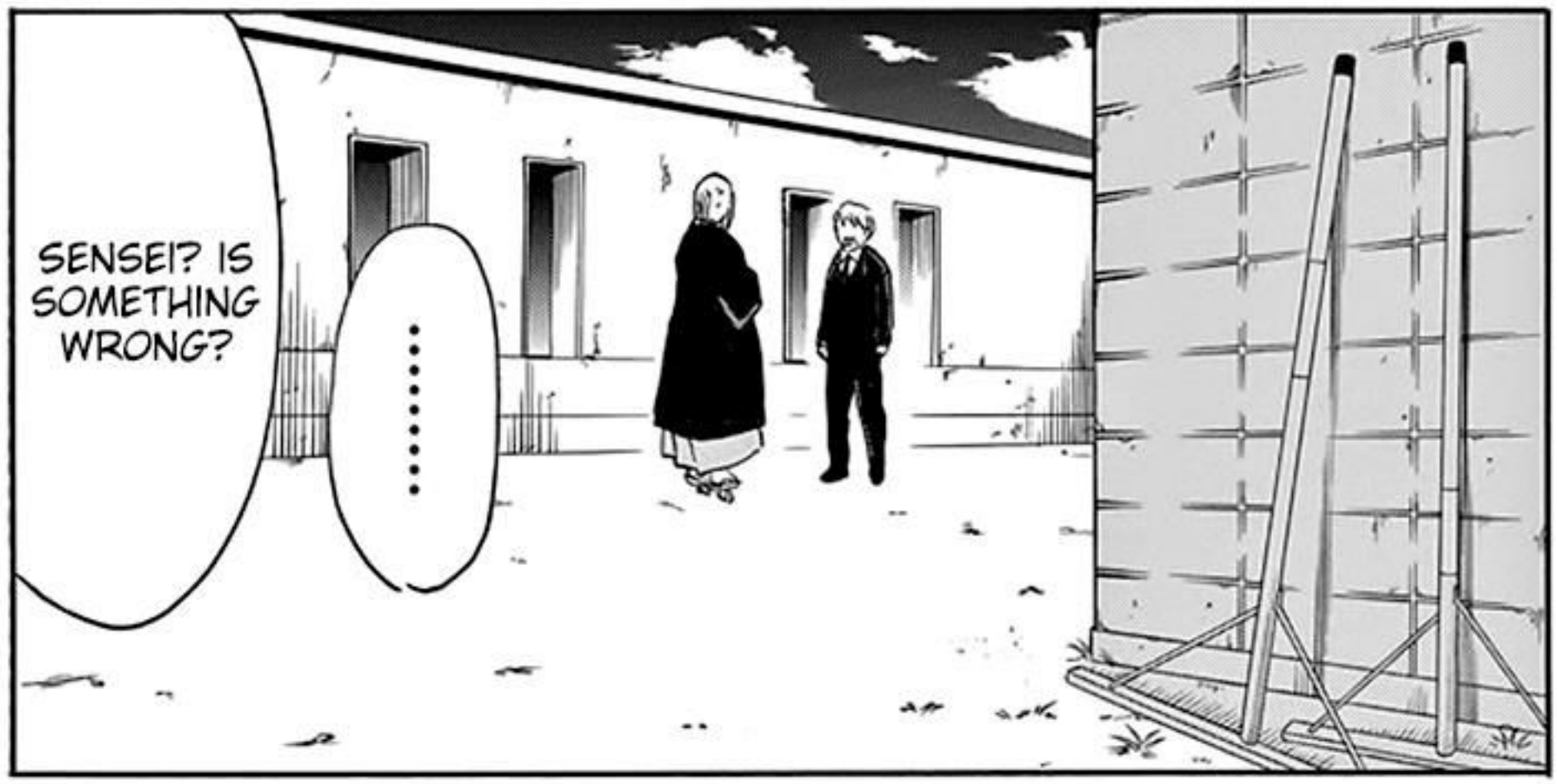
WHO COULD'VE THOUGHT THAT ALL OF THE SWORDSMANSHIP COACHES WE PREPARED WOULDN'T MATCH UP TO KUROGANE-KUN.

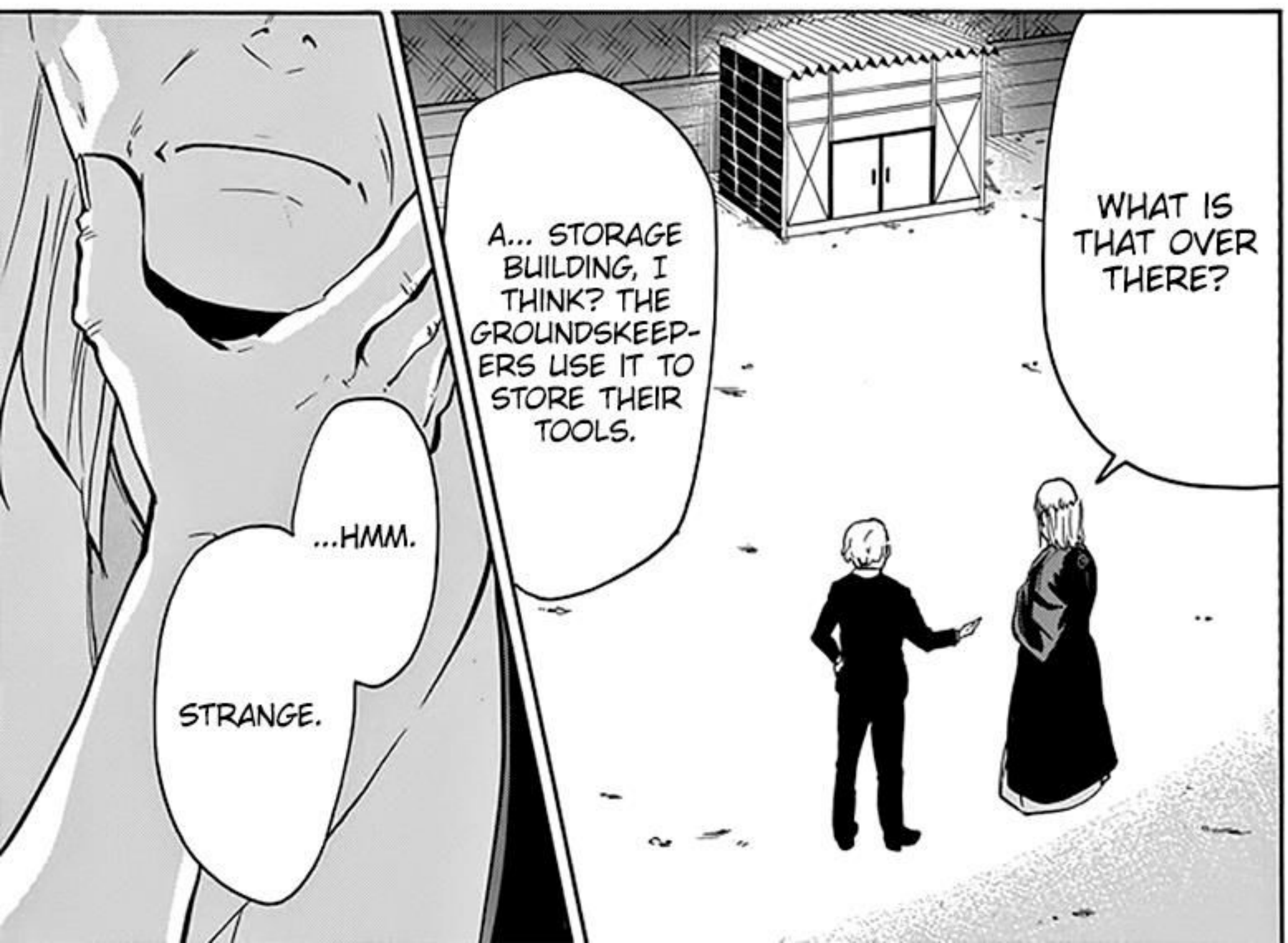
HE MUST BE A GREAT YOUNGSTER, IF EVEN YOU THINK SO HIGHLY OF HIM.

HAHA HA.

IF IT'S SWORDSMANSHIP, HE MIGHT EVEN EXCEED RYOUMA... WHAT A FRIGHTFUL LAD HE'LL BE IN THE FUTURE.

...MMM?


SENSEI? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
.....


A... STORAGE BUILDING, I THINK? THE GROUNDSKEEPERS USE IT TO STORE THEIR TOOLS.
WHAT IS THAT OVER THERE?
...HMM.
STRANGE.

THERE'S A PERSON INSIDE.

N-NANGOU-SENSEI,

WHAT IS...!?

Nnn!

報道の三田

NNNNN!

ガラッ

……!

Nnn!

GAH!

NO NEED TO RUSH. I WILL HAVE YOU FREE IN A MOMENT.

Haa

Haa

TH—

THANKS FOR SAVING ME!

AREN'T YOU... FROM HAGUN ACADEMY'S NEWSPAPER CLUB...!

HAA...

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER... PLEASE LET ME MAKE A CALL FIRST!

報道

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?

NO DIAL TONE ...

SENPAI DIALING

...

NOT GETTING THROUGH ...

I HAVE TO WARN SENPAI ABOUT ALICE-CHAN!

SPEAKER MODE
TARGET: SENPAI
VOLUME: 100
THERE'S A FORCED SPEAKERPHONE MODE FOR EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS!
WAIT!
の自由
SENPAI!
BE CAREFUL!

ALICE-CHAN IS A SPY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL!
—?!

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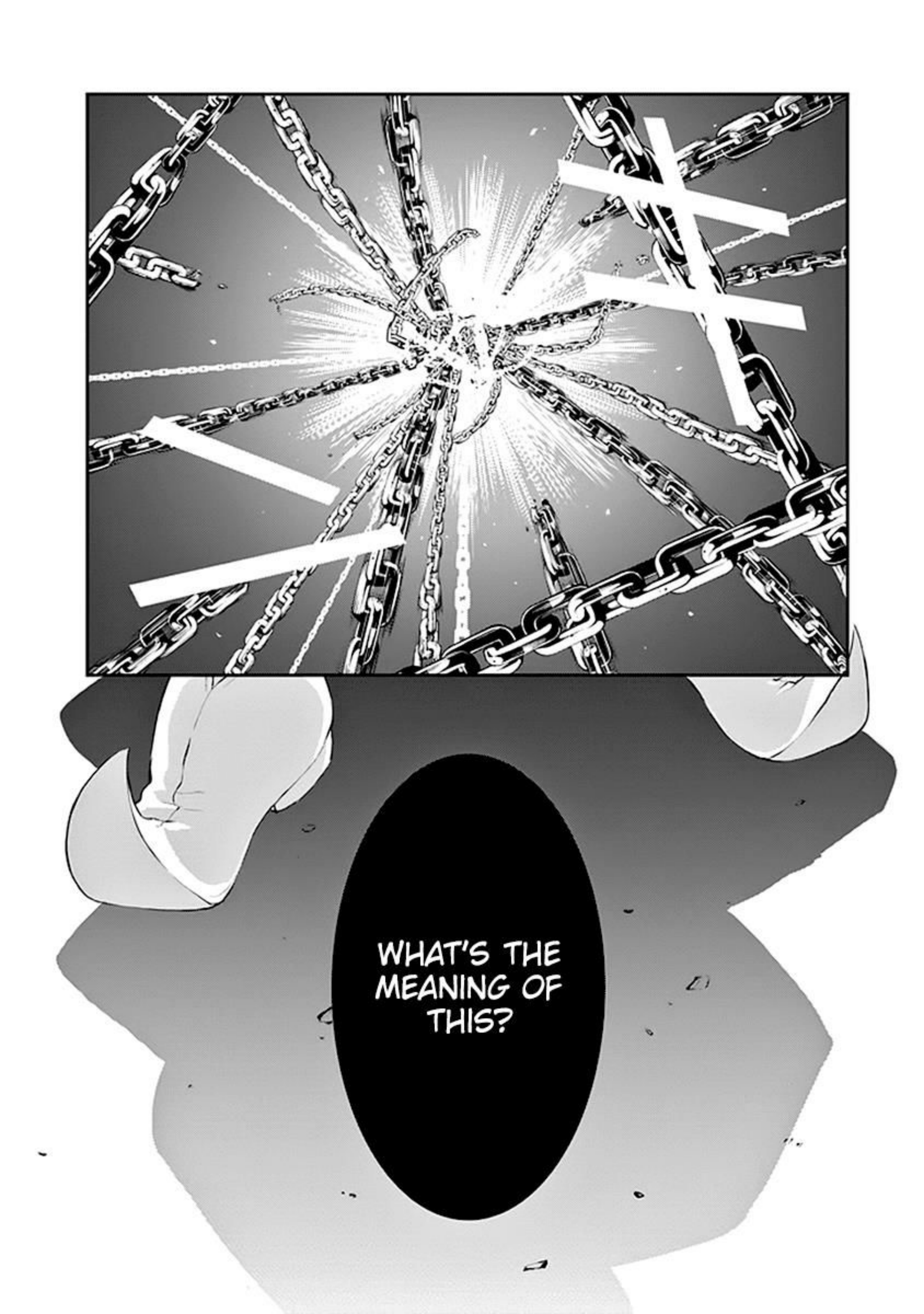
SHADOW BIND


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

WHY ARE YOU TYING DOWN OUR SHADOWS,
NAGI ARISUIN?!

THE SMOKE ...
IT'S COMING FROM THE SCHOOL...?

GOING BACK TEN MINUTES OR SO AGO...

THAT'S THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE CURRENTLY ATTACKING HAGUN.
AKATSUKI ACADEMY.

...
WAIT... WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
ALICE...?!

BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO HEAR ME OUT FIRST...

I'M SORRY.

I'VE SEALED YOUR MOVEMENTS IN ORDER TO PREVENT PANIC

ABOUT WHO THEY REALLY ARE,

AND WHAT THEIR PURPOSE IS.

YES... MY PART IN THIS, AFTER WE REACH HAGUN,

IS TO SEAL YOUR MOVEMENTS JUST LIKE I'M DOING NOW.

...IS THAT TRUE?

THAT THIS "AKATSUKI" GROUP IS TRYING TO GET INTO THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL BY ATTACKING HAGUN?

THIS IS WHY I ENTERED HAGUN AND GOT CLOSE TO YOU.

HAGUN ACADEMY IS BEING ASSAULTED.

AND RIGHT NOW,

...

...I DON'T GET IT.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING US THIS?

IF IT'S LIKE YOU SAY, WON'T THAT STRATEGY BE RUINED?

YES... THAT'S TRUE.

THAT WAS... WHAT I INTENDED.

...WHY? THAT'S THE REASON YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL AND GOT CLOSE TO SHIZUKU, RIGHT?

IN OTHER WORDS, I... WANT THIS STRATEGY TO BE RUINED.

BUT DESPITE MYSELF,

I'VE COME TO CARE FOR HER.

A WARPED HOUSEHOLD.

AN UNSEVERABLE FAMILY TIE.

SO MANY INJUSTICES.

AND YET SHE'S WILLING TO TAKE ALL THE WOUNDS OR TO DISAPPEAR...

TO BE THE CLOSEST TO HER BROTHER.

SHE'S A GIRL WHO CONTINUES TO LOVE HER BROTHER.

THE WAY SHIZUKU EXPRESSES HER LOVE,

DESPITE THE WORLD'S ABSURDITIES, IS SOMETHING PRECIOUS IN MY EYES... DAZZLING, EVEN.

THE STRONG TAKE EVERYTHING, THE WEAK HAVE EVERYTHING TAKEN AWAY... EVEN IF THAT'S THE TRUTH OF THE WORLD...

SO I THOUGHT,

AND...

I...

DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM THIS HIGH-MINDED GIRL...

EVEN IF THOSE CRIMINALS TAKE AWAY EVERYTHING FROM ME FOR BELIEVING IN THE WORLD, NOTHING WILL CHANGE FOR ME.

NOT WILLING TO DESTROY SHIZUKU'S DESIRE... OR THE DREAM OF THE PERSON SHE ADORES.

I DON'T WANT TO HARM ANYONE ANYMORE.

AS FOR ME, I'M...

THAT'S MY ENTIRE REASON, IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW IT.

SO IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SWORD-ART FESTIVAL, THE STAGE YOU'VE ALL DREAMED OF,

PLEASE COOPERATE WITH ME TO DEFEAT AKATSUKI'S DESIGNS.

E...EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU...!
CAN I ASK A QUESTION?
WHO'D TRUST SOMEONE THAT'S EVEN NOW HOLDING US DOWN LIKE THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT!

IN THAT CASE, I WOULD TURN THIS BUS AROUND AND ESCAPE AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.

IF WE, LIKE KIKYOU-SAN AND HER SISTER, CHOOSE NOT TO TRUST YOU...

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?

BUT THERE'S NO CHANCE OF GETTING AWAY.

WHILE I DON'T KNOW THE STRENGTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF AKATSUKI,

THEY'RE ALL ELITES FROM THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD.

SO INSTEAD, I WANT TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU DON'T TRUST ME

WHO'S KILLED BEFORE AND IS NOW CONFESSING.

SO ONCE THIS MATTER ENDS, I'LL DISAPPEAR.

DURING THE FIGHT, EVEN IF I COME UNDER DANGER, I DON'T MIND IF YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND.

BUT FOR THIS ONE TIME,

I'D LIKE YOU TO BELIEVE ME.

HOW WOULD YOU, THE TEAM LEADER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES, ACT HERE?

KURO-GANE-KUN.

I SEE. I UNDERSTAND YOUR VIEW.

ギリ…

I CAN'T HONESTLY TRUST IN ALICE COMPLETELY.

……

BUT LIKE SHIZUKU POINTED OUT,

IF WE THINK ABOUT HIS POSITION, IT'S TRUE THAT THIS DOESN'T HELP THE ENEMY.

I... THINK I'LL TRY TRUSTING ALICE.

ブッ
HAA!
Ha...
W...
WE WON!

WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF HE STRUCK FROM BEHIND?

TH-THANK GOOD-NESS.

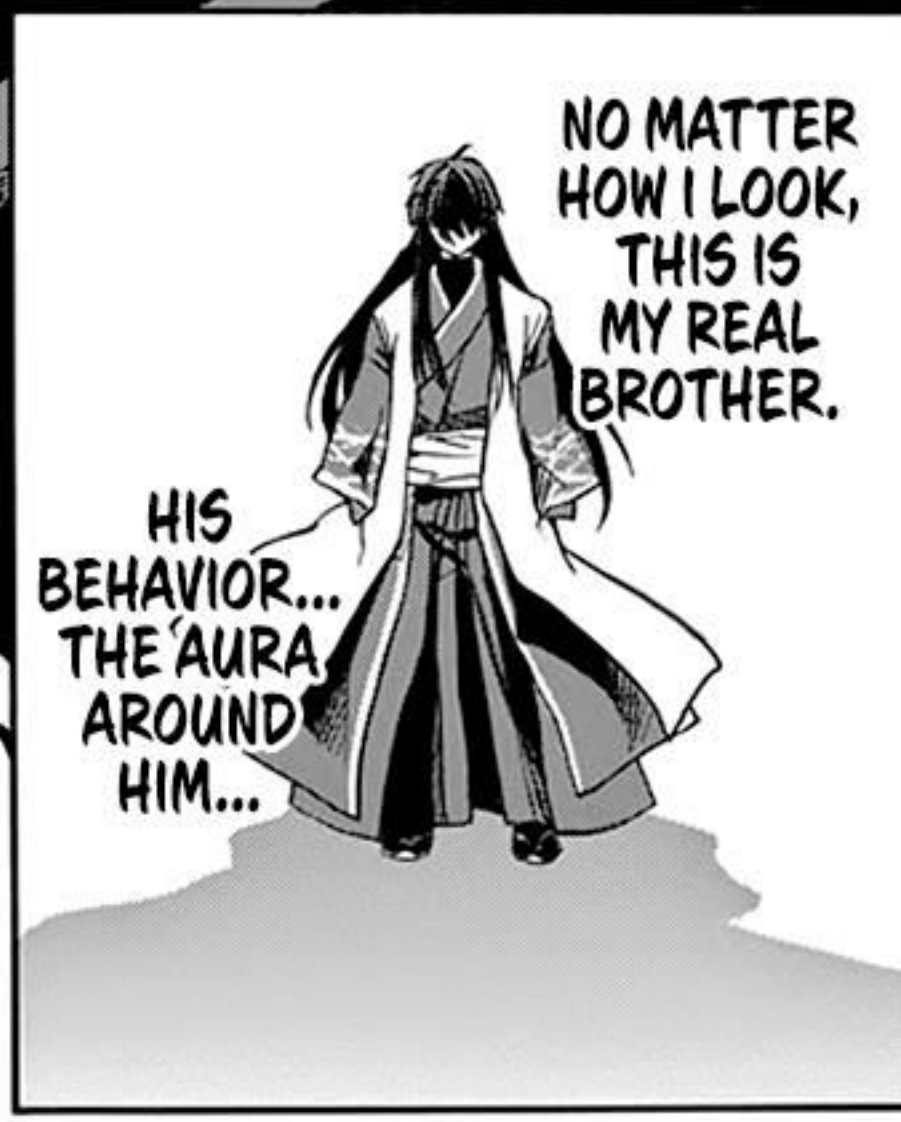
Phew.

SORRY, ALICE-CHAN...!

NO, THANK YOU...!

—IMPOSSIBLE.

MY BROTHER, THE SWORD EMPEROR OF WIND, OUMA KUROGANE...



WOULD NEVER BE LYING AT MY FEET SO GRACELESSLY...!

BACK THEN...

WHEN AMANE-KUN NOTICED THE ATTACKER ON THE SHOPPING STREET FASTER THAN ANYONE...

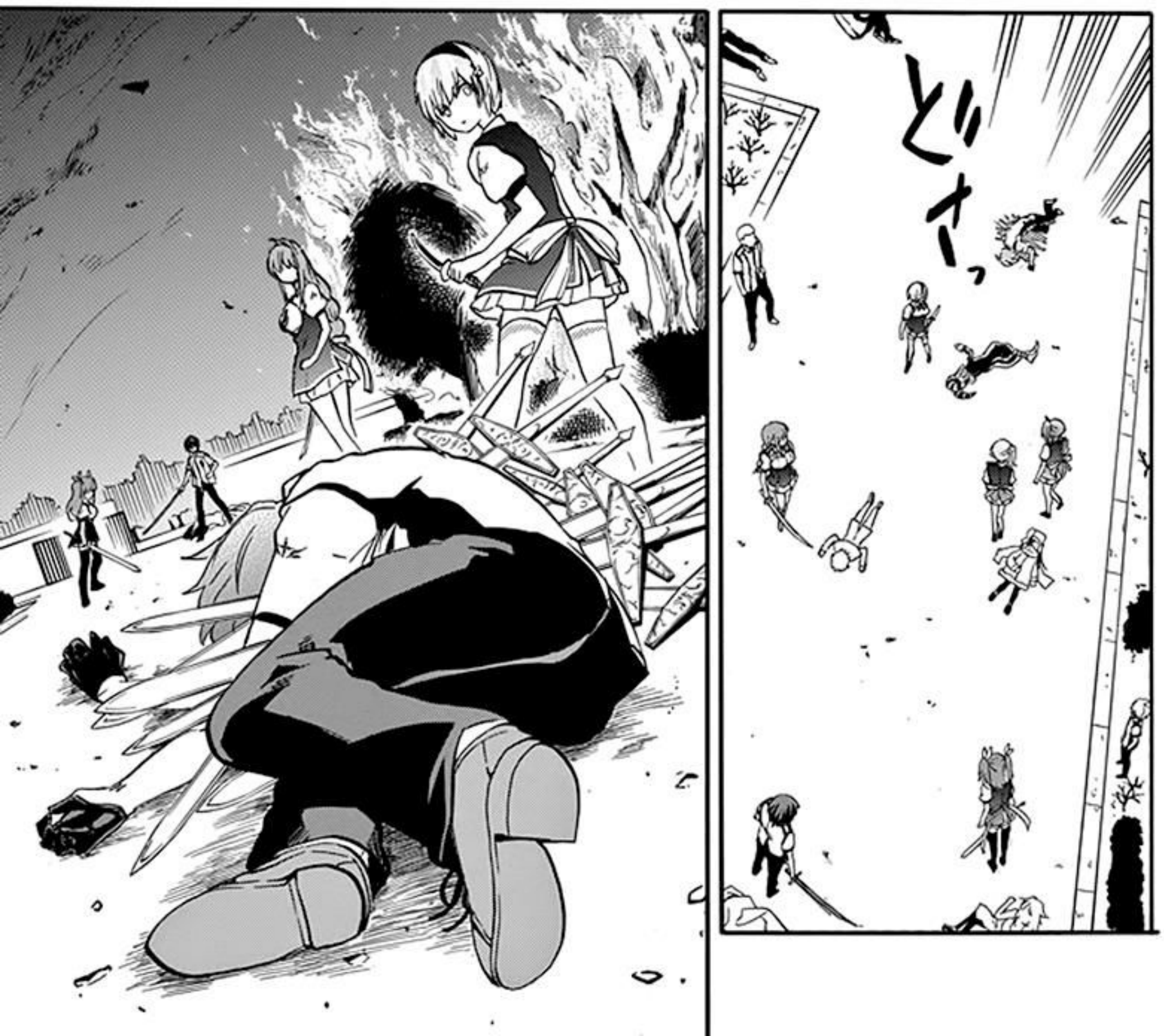
WHAT ABILITY DID HE USE TO SEE THE MAN'S KNIFE...?

ABILITY ...

AN ABILITY THAT SHOWS HIM THE MAN'S INTENT...

WHAT IF... IT LETS HIM PREDICT THE FUTURE!

ALICE, WATCH OUT! THIS IS A TRAP!
WH...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AHAHA!
HOW UNLUCKY.
ALI...CE...?
YOU MIGHT'VE BARELY MADE IT. OH WELL, RIGHT?
IF YOU NOTICED ONLY A BIT QUICKER,

!?

WHAT ...?!

STILL... IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU CAN TAKE IT.

BUT FIGURING OUT MY ABILITY JUST FROM THE SHORT TIME YOU'VE MET ME IS AMAZING.
THAT'S IKKI-KUN FOR YOU!

NOW,
LET'S HAVE THE REAL FIGHT.
THE BOTTOMLESS POWER OF DARKNESS—